Valley Sports

CSUN Thwarts Rally, Trips Sacramento

■ **College baseball:** Kloek weathers two ninth-inning home runs, ends game with 15th strikeout in 8-7 victory.

By STEVE ELLING
TIMES STAFF WRITER

For the Cal State Northridge baseball team, it was a game of halves. Not coincidentally, this almost made the Matadors have-nots.

Northridge scored all of its runs in the first three innings Saturday, then weathered some late-inning fireworks to hold off fewer Cal State Sacramento, 8-7, at Matador Field.

CSUN (32-8-1) scored five runs in the second inning to take a 7-1 lead, then shifted into cruise control. Sacramento, on the other hand, went down kicking and screaming. But then, who was doing the kicking was a matter of opinion.

Sacramento (27-19) trailed, 8-4, entering the ninth but soon dropped the hammer on Matador starter Kevin Kloek. After pinch-hitter Kui Souza walked to open the inning, Jon Beauchemin came off the bench and belted a home run over the wall in left to trim the lead to 8-6.

As Beauchemin crossed the plate, his path became entangled with those of CSUN catcher Mike Sims, which caused the Sacramento bench to loudly claim that Beauchemin had been intentionally tripped. Beauchemin and Sims were teammates at Alemany High, from which both graduated in 1989, but their relationship has soured.

"I don't think they're the best of friends," Northridge Coach Bill Kernen said.

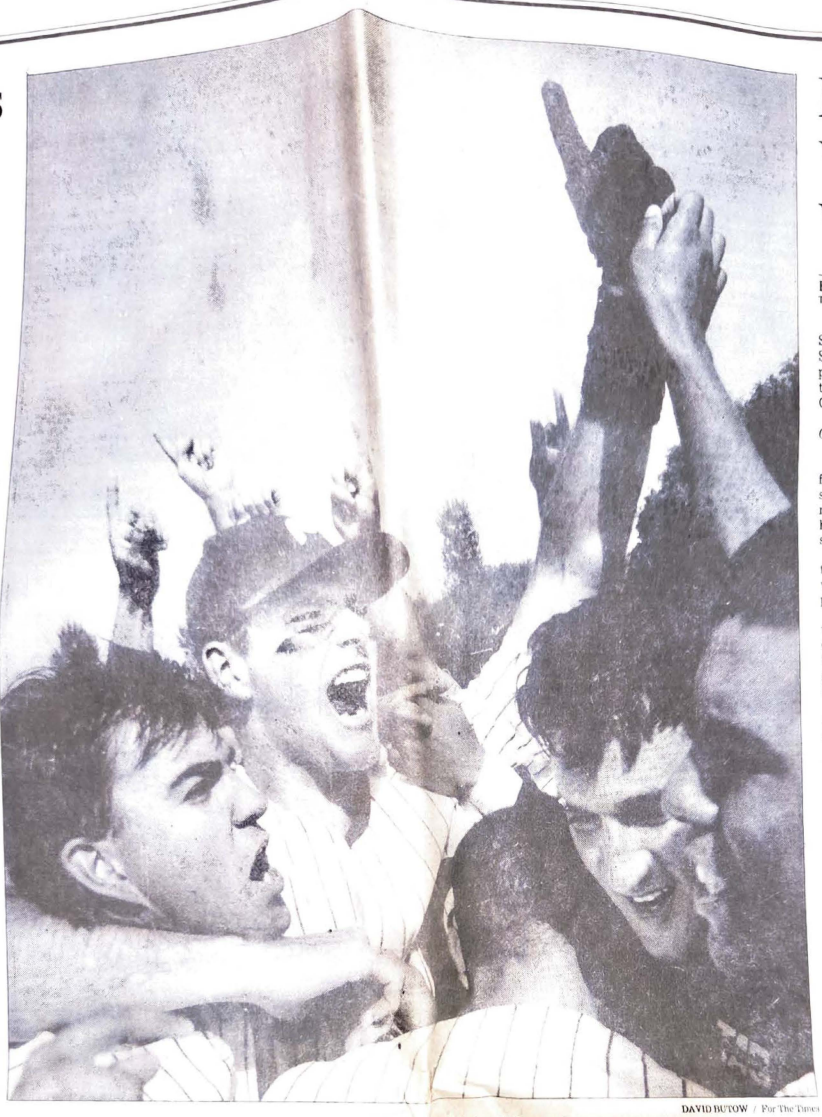
Sims, in what could be construed as either an admission of guilt or a profession of innocence: "He stopped before he got to first base. He was showboating. I was trying back to my position when he tripped. That's the way I saw it."

Kloek (7-2) saw red a few seconds later when Tony Turnbull ripped a solo home run over the wall in left to pare the lead to one. However, Kloek settled down and struck out pinch-hitter Darren Brown and Chris Haro to finish off the Hornets.

Haro, who played at Citrus College with Kloek last season, was the right-hander's 15th strikeout victim. Kloek, who fanned seven in a row during one stretch and *allowed 10 hits, looked skyward after the final pitch and let out a considerable sigh.*

"It's contagious. After the way the game was played in the second half of the game," Kernen seemed relieved that Northridge had held on for the victory and added that the effort was half-hearted. "We were real soft on offense," Kernen said. "We got a lead and we tried to sit on it a little. All in all, we played a pretty mediocre game."

Following reliever Dave Paulk, CSUN managed only one hit over the final five innings, but thanks to an early assault it was enough. CSUN pounded freshman right-hander Chris Nave (2-2) for five runs in 1⅔ innings and right-handed reliever Jerk Snow didn't fare much better. With two runs in and a runner on first with one out in the second, Snow was inserted to face right-handed batters Andy Hodgins, Scott Richardson and Mike Solar. He surrendered consecutive singles to the trio, committed a throwing error, and was yanked with CSUN leading, 7-1.



DAVID BUTOW / For The Times

Brian Smith, second from left, celebrates with his Pierce teammates after the Brahmas beat Ventura to win the WSC baseball title.

Pierce Stops Ventura for WSC Title

By T.C. PORTER
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The loudspeaker at Pierce College on Saturday blasted a recent tune from Soundgarden moments before the Brahmas played host to Ventura in a baseball game that would determine the Western State Conference title.

"I'm feelin'. . . Outshined! Outshined! Outshined!"

Before long, Ventura could relate.

Pierce broke a tie with a five-run, fifth-inning rally, and the Brahmas outshined the Pirates in a 7-2 victory in the regular-season finale for both teams. Left-hander Mike Eby (8-1) overcame a rocky start to finish with a six-hitter.

Pierce, which clinched a share of the title Thursday, wrapped up first place and will be the home team in its state regional playoff opener May 8.

Ventura (23-13, 14-6 in WSC play), which finished tied for second with Bakersfield in conference play, will play host to a first-round conference tournament game Tuesday in its bid to claim a regional berth.

"Pierce is an excellent team," Ventura Coach Gary Anglin said. "We're still proud of our guys, but we're not as talented."

Pierce (28-6, 16-4), which tied for the WSC title last year, struggled early against right-hander Andy Moffat (5-2), who four-hit the Brahmas in the Pirates' 3-1 victory at Ventura on April 4. Through three innings, Pierce had one hit and trailed, 2-0.

A crack appeared in the dam in the fourth, however. Moffat struck out Josh Smaler but walked Ricky Banuelos, Adam Pearlman and Paul Geller—the lower three in the order—to load the bases. Erik Martinez singled to drive in Banuelos. Joey Arnold's fielder's choice drove in Pearlman to tie the score.

Moffat then walked his seventh batter to again load the bases and was relieved by Karl Whitnall, who retired Brian Smith to end the rally. Pierce had stranded eight runners at that point.

But the Brahmas are the best hitting team in the WSC—averaging 8.6 runs a game—and that became apparent in the fifth. After a walk to Robby Welles and a sacrifice by Smaler, Banuelos tripled and

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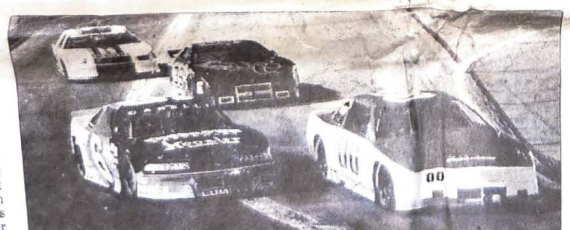

DAVID BUTOW / For The Times

Greg Scheidecker (00) leads the field into a turn during his heat-race win Saturday.

Custer Veers Past Crow to Move Into Winner's Circle at Saugus

By VINCE KOWALICK
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Rick Crow could not hold the lead in Saturday night's 25-lap Pro Stock oval main event at Saugus Speedway.

So, Crow yielded the right of way to Terry Custer, who could.

Custer, a resident of Northridge, slipped inside Crow on the first turn of Lap 19 and went on to win his first main event of the season before a season-high crowd of 6,443.

The 100-lap main event, race No. 5 in the 17-race NASCAR Southwest Tour, had not been completed at press time.

"I went (into the turn) high and came out low," Custer, 26, said. "Rick Crow is a good racer. He gave me a lot of room."

He had to.

"The car just wouldn't hold in the turn," said Crow, a longtime track veteran from Canyon Country. "I saw Terry coming and I didn't want to screw him up. No sense in ruining someone else's night. I was happy with a second."

Gerrit Cromsigt of Palmdale finished third and Scott Dinger of Simi Valley took fourth.

Bob Lyon of Newhall set the Southwest Tour's top one-lap qualifying mark with a

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Cal Lutheran Claims SCIAC Title With Sweep of 2nd-Place Redlands

By WENDY WITHERSPOON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Cal Lutheran won a doubleheader against visiting Redlands on Saturday to sweep the three-game series and give the Kingsmen the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference baseball championship.

The Kingsmen won, 5-0 and 9-7, and moved five games ahead of second-place Redlands with three SCIAC games to play. Cal Lutheran (32-2, 17-1 in SCIAC play) shut out Redlands, 4-0, on Friday at Redlands. The Bulldogs are 17-13-1, 12-6.

"It would have been a major disappointment [if we hadn't won the conference title]," said Cal Lutheran Coach Rich Hill, whose team is ranked No. 1 in the NCAA Division III.

In the first game, Steve Dempsey (10-0) threw a four-hitter, striking out six and walking none. The win marked Dempsey's 14th consecutive victory dating to last season.

Cal Lutheran's Jim Fifer broke a 7-7 tie

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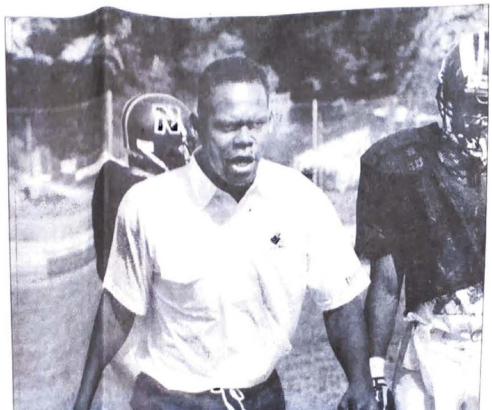
TENNIS / OJAI TOURNAMENT

Studio City's Kessler Reluctantly Wins



For Irvin, Charity Begins at Northridge

■ **College football:** After squandering NFL earnings, former Ram begins coaching career as Matador volunteer.

By THERESA MUNOZ
TIMES STAFF WRITER

During his 11 years as a defensive back in the National Football League, LeRoy Irvin prepared for the day he no longer would cover the likes of Jerry Rice.

He became a mortgage banker, a gas station owner and a boxing promoter.

Irvin, a five-time All-Pro with the Rams, was determined to maintain a high standard of living but, he said, he